# NEWS RELEASE

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## Water Sample Tests Show No Zebra Mussel Larvae in Lake Lavon

*FORT WORTH, Texas* – The Fort Worth District U.S Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced Oct. 5 that samples tested for the presence of zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) larvae known as veligers from Lake Lavon and West Prong Sister Grove Creek are negative.

"Sampling surveys were analyzed to determine if veligers were present in the water. A positive reading would have been an indicator that adults have established a toehold in the lake," said Heath McLane, the Corps' Lake Lavon manager. "This does not confirm an absence of zebra mussels in the lake, but the results are encouraging."

Adult zebra mussels were found in the upper reaches of West Prong Sister Grove Creek in late July, which prompted the water samples testing.

"We know zebra mussels got into the Lake Lavon water system at some point in recent months, because we found three attached to rocks in the creek that flows into the lake," said Bruce Hysmith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries biologist based at Lake Texoma, the only Texas lake where zebra mussels are known to have presently become well established. "The question now is whether there is an active population in Lake Lavon. The negative water sample tests indicate maybe not, but we will continue monitoring, and we continue encouraging boaters to take the necessary precautions after visiting Lake Lavon or Lake Texoma to help avoid spreading zebra mussels to other water bodies."

In late August, the two agencies took water samples to try to detect zebra mussel veligers. A total of twelve samples were taken at various locations along the creek and in the lake.

The Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, Colorado conducted Light Microscopy and DNA testing protocols on the samples. There were no veligers seen in any of the samples, but numerous ostracods and a couple of corbicula were found, according to the report.

Ostracods are 'seed shrimp' and Corbicula are Asiatic Clams. Both are considered to be 'signal' organisms showing the environment is suitable for mussels. The presence of these organisms in the sample confirms that the test was effective.

TPWD and USACE will continue to work together on monitoring our area lakes for the presence of this invasive species. Both agencies ask that boaters continue to take proactive measures to prevent the spread of zebra mussels in Texas waters, including:

- Drain all water from the boat including such things as the engine, bilge, livewells and bait buckets before leaving the lake.
- Inspect the boat and trailer and remove any zebra mussels, vegetation or foreign objects that are found.

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- Wash your boat and trailer at a commercial carwash using high pressure and hot (140-degree) soapy water. Hot water, 140 degrees F, will kill zebra mussel veligers, and when the water from the carwash goes through a waste water treatment plant the process should kill any remaining mussels.
- Open all compartments and livewells and allow the boat and trailer to dry for a week before entering another water body.

For additional information on Zebra Mussels go to http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/protectourwaters. To report possible zebra mussel findings contact the nearest Corps of Engineers or Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office, or call the Operation Game Chief toll-free hotline at (800) 792-4263.

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